

Collecting Butterflies in France and North-East Spain in August 1977

By N. J. and A. C. DERRY*

Our holiday was based at Los Olivos, Aigua Blava, on the Costa Brava. We (the family) crossed the channel by hovercraft and motored down through France, collecting on the way, reaching N.E. Spain on the afternoon of August 13th. Los Olivos served as the headquarters for entomological forays in Spain, collecting being confined to the province of Catalonia. During our stay in Spain the weather was generally sunny, with temperatures somewhat below average, but we met with heavy downpours on our return journey through France. Below is a rough diary of places visited and butterfly species seen:

11th August. Nr. Senlis, N.E. of Paris, France: Deciduous woodland.

1 *Vanessa atalanta* L. 1 ♂ *Argynnis paphia* L.

Sev. *Pyronia tithonus* L.

12th August. (1) West of Murat, W.N.W. of St. Flour, France: Flowery meadows adjoining woodland and grassy clearings.

Sev. *Erebia epiphron aetheria* Esper. Many *Erebia ligea* L.

1 *Erebia aethiops* Esper.

4 *Clossiana titania* Esper (worn) — surprisingly still on the wing.

Many *Erebia sudetica liorana* De Lesse — comparatively fresh and in good numbers.

Sev. *Mellicta parthenoides* Keferstein.

1 *Heodes alciphron* Rottensburg — near the limit of its western range in France.

2 *Aglais urticae* L. Sev. *Heodes virgaureae* L.

Sev. *Coenonympha pamphilus* L. 1 *Thymelicus sylvestris* Poda.

(2) North of Florac, France: Rough grassy area with scrub.

1 *Brenthis daphne* S.

Gorges du Tarn, N.E. of Millau, France.

1 ♀ *Gonepteryx rhamni* L. 1 *Papilio machaon* L.

13th August. (3) Col de Puymorens, W.N.W. of Font-Romeu, France: Varied habitats.

Few *Clossiana selene* S. 1 *Erebia oeme* H.

Few *Erebia epiphron* (*fauveaui*?) De Lesse.

1 *Erebia cassiodes arvernensis* Oberthur.

Few *Lycaeides idas* L. Few *Palaeochrysophanus hippothoe* L.

1 *Carcharodus flocciferus* Zeller.

Puerto de Tosas, Nr. La Molina, Spain.

Few *Parnassius apollo* L.

14th August (4) Near Aigua Blava, E. of Gerona, Spain: Rough hillside near the sea.

1 *Pieris mannii* Mayer

* Limeburners, Lincoln Hill, Ironbridge, Telford, Salop, TF8 7NL.

BUTTERFLIES OBSERVED IN FRANCE AND N.E. SPAIN

(11th AUGUST 1977 — 26th AUGUST 1977)

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
<i>Papilio machaon</i> L.				S			C			F
<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i> <i>feisthamelii</i> Duponchel				1	1	1	F	1		1
<i>Pieris brassicae</i> L.				S		1	S			F
<i>P. rapae</i> L.			S	C	S		C	1		F
<i>Colias crocea</i> Geoffroy			1	S			S	1		F
<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i> <i>europaea</i> Verity				F			F	1		
<i>Leptidea sinapis</i> L.				2	2		F	F		F
<i>Charaxes jasius</i> L.				2			1	2		
<i>Apatura ilia barcina</i> Verity					2		F			
<i>Limenitis reducta</i> Staudinger				1		1	F	1		1
<i>L. camilla</i> L.					S		S	1		F
<i>Inachis io</i> L.				S			S	1		S
<i>Vanessa atalanta</i> L.				F			F	1		F
<i>V. cardui</i> L.			3		1		C	1		
<i>Polygonia c-album</i> L.					1		2			1
<i>Argynnis paphia</i> L.						1	1		2	S
<i>Mesoacidalia aglaja</i> L.	1		1							
<i>Issoria lathonia</i> L.				2			S	F		F
<i>Brenthis ino</i> Rottemburg	S		1							
<i>Clossiana dia</i> L.							F			F
<i>Melitaea didyma</i> <i>occidentalis</i> Staudinger				2			C			
<i>Melanargia galathea</i> L.	F	S								
<i>M. garathea lachesis</i> H.						1	F			1
<i>Hipparchia statilinus</i> Hufnagel				S	1		1			
<i>Pseudotergumia fidia</i> L.				S			1	F		
<i>Erebia manto/constans</i> Eiffinger	S		C							
<i>Maniola jurtina</i> L.	F	1								
<i>M. jurtina hispulla</i> Esper				F	F	F	F	F		
<i>Pyronia tithonus</i> L.		1			S	F	S	F	F	F
<i>P. cecilia</i> Vallantin				S	F		F			
<i>Parage aegeria</i> L.				C	F	F	C	F		F
<i>Lasiommata megera</i> L.				S			F			1
<i>Quercusia quercus</i> L.							2			1
<i>Nordmannia esculi</i> H.					2					S
<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i> L.					1		F			F
<i>Lampides boeticus</i> L.				S			F	F		F
<i>Syntaracus pirithous</i> L.						1	2			
<i>Everes argiades</i> Pallas					S	F	F			F
<i>E. alcetas</i> Hoffmannsegg							S	1		
<i>Celastrina argiolus</i> L.				F			S	S		F
<i>Polyommatus icarus</i> Rottemburg				F	1	1	C	1	F	F
<i>Spialia sertorius</i> Hoffmannsegg					1		3			
<i>Carcharodus alceae</i> Esper							2			
<i>Thymelicus lineola</i> Ochsenheimer	S	F	1							
<i>Ochlodes venata</i> Turati							2			2

15th August. Near Aigua Blava: See (4).

1 *Melitaea phoebe occitanica* Staudinger.

1 *G. rhamni* L. 3 *P. manni* Mayer.

1 *Melitaea didyma* Staudinger larva found on rough ground.

16th August. Near Aigua Blava: See (4).

17th August. (5) Near Angles, W. of Gerona, Spain: Varied habitats.

5 *Meliccta athalia celadussa* Fruhstorfer — rough ground near a stream.

2 fresh ♂ *Apatura ilia barcina* Verity — glided round and settled on the dry gravel of a stream bed.

(6) Near San Hilario, Spain: Some open ground, on bushy hillside.

S.E. of Arbucias, Spain: Near Riera de Arbucias.

Few *Pieris rapae* L. Sev. *Everes argiades* Pallas.

2+ *Everes alcetas* Hoffmannsegg.

17th August. Also seen (by roadside):

Few *Colias crocea* Geoffroy. Few *Gonepteryx cleopatra europaea* Verity (1 ♀).

1 *V. atalanta*. Sev. *Inachis io* L. 1 *Lasiommata megera* L.

1 *M. didyma* larva — at Los Olivos (ready to pupate).

18th August. (7) Near La Bisbal, E. of Gerona, Spain: Varied habitats.

4+ *A. ilia barcina* — 1-3 ♀'s, 2+ ♂'s, fresh.

1 *Nymphalis polychloros* L.

Searching fennel by the roadside revealed several *P. machaon* ova and a few newly-hatched larvae.

19th August. Near La Bisbal: See (7).

3+ *A. ilia barcina* (1 ♀). 1 *Pyrgus armoricanus* Oberthur.

2 *Pyrgus malvae malvoides* Elwes & Edwards.

A search of a group of fairly small *P. nigra* produced 5 *A. ilia barcina* ova and 1 full grown larva — All except one of the ova were about 10 feet up on the trees.

Several *Iphiclides podalirius feisthamelii* Duponchel ova were also found, on very small blackthorn plants.

20th August. (8) Near Calonge, S.E. of Gerona, Spain: Dry hillside with holly oaks and Arbutus bushes.

1 *Charaxes jasius* L. (newly hatched).

22nd August. Near Calonge: See (8).

Found several nearly full grown *C. jasius* larvae.

1 fresh imago *C. jasius* also seen.

23rd August. (9) N.E. of Grandloos, Spain: Varied habitats.

2 *Polygonia c-album* f. *hutchinsoni*.

23rd August. (10) S.E. of Montseny, Spain: By the side of a stream.

1 ♀ *Thecla betulae* L. (chipped).

2 newly-hatched larvae and a few *I. podalirius feisthamelii* found on blackthorn.

24th August. Near La Bisbal: See (7).

2 *A. ilia barcin* — including 1 ♂ f. *clytie*.

In the Massif Central butterflies were still on the wing that we had expected to be over, such as *C. titania* and *E. sudetica liorana*, the latter being fairly fresh and reasonably common. *E. manto constans* was also still flying, together with several *B. ino*. Likewise in Catalonia the season appeared to be a little behind 'normal' with *I. podalirius feisthamelii* particularly fresh (and not fully out) and *C. jasius* appeared to be in between broods, borne out by the presence of nearly full grown larvae. *A. ilia barcina* seemed to be local and we were fortunate in coming across areas where it could be readily observed. One disappointment was the lack of *Hesperide*, but this was 'made up for' by the presence of the other species and overall the trip proved to be very enjoyable.

KEY TO TABLE

F=Few	: 0-10 Specimens seen
S & Sev.=Several	: 10-20 Specimens seen
C=Common	: over 20 Specimens seen

Where known, exact number of specimens seen are given.
Total number of species=69.

N.B. Figures used in the text correspond to those used in the table and serve as abbreviations for the localities.

Butterflies and Moths of Breconshire by **J. P. Sankey-Barker, J. M. Chalmers-Hunt and H. G. Parker.** 88 pp. 1 plate. 1 map. 8vo, stiff wrappers. Brecknock Naturalists' Trust (1978) £3.00.

This volume is the first published County List of lepidoptera for Breconshire (V.C. 42), a County which was extinguished by the bureaucrats in 1974 and replaced by portions of Powys, Mid Glamorgan and Gwent. It is pleasing to note that all groups of lepidoptera are included, and that the nomenclature is up to date. Numeration of families is in accordance with Kloet and Hincks (1972), although the order in which the families are presented is a little odd. A reasonably comprehensive listing of the macrolepidoptera is evident, but the smaller moths are obviously under-recorded, and the area would benefit from more visits by microlepidopterists — for example 23 of the 30 recorded species of Nepticulidae reflect the passage of Col. Emmet through the County in 1974!

A useful feature is a "gazetteer" giving the tetrad references for the often unfamiliar place names mentioned in the text. The book concludes with a brief bibliography and separate indices for the scientific and trivial names.

County Lists are important not only for their intrinsic value, but because they become reference works for future generations of entomologists. This well-produced volume should provide a foundation for much useful work in years to come, and it is a pity that only 200 copies have been produced. The work is available from E. Bartlett, Chapel House, Llechfaen, Brecon, Powys for an inclusive price of £3.15. — Paul Sokoloff.